

## **FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Captain Isaac Paine School  
160 Foster Center Road  
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, October 22, 2013  
Open Session – 7:00 PM

1. **Convene Meeting** – Vice Chair, Shelley Pezza, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order on Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

- a. *Roll Call* – members, Vice Chair, Shelley Pezza, and member, Ron Cervasio along with Superintendent, Caroline Caswell and FSC Secretary, Helena McCullough were present at the time of roll call. Chair, Kathleen Swanson, attended at 7:16 pm.
- b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited by all in attendance.

2. **Public Comment** – none.

Vice Chair, Shelley Pezza, moved agenda item #4, Building Use Requests, to this point of the Agenda.

3. Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers’ Association.
4. **Building Use Requests** – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to approve all Building Use Requests as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to approve the Minutes as written. (Open Session Minutes for September 24, 2013). Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.
6. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to approve all Warrants as submitted and signed. (Warrant submitted for Sept. Payment on Sept. 26, 2013 for \$65,929.69). Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.
  - a. *Business Manager’s Report* – Mr. Petrarca was not available to give a report but will update the FSC in November.

## **7. Old Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. *2012-2013 Budget* – no report.
- b. *2013-2014 Budget* – Dr. Caswell reported that posting of expenditures are up to date.
- c. *Facilities Update* – Mr. Cervasio requested that the report on Capital Improvements and the report on the chimney be sent to the Foster Town Council. Door mats in front of the Kindergarten recess doors are needed for the wiping of feet after recess due to sand and or inclement weather and the buildup of mud etc. on the children's shoes. This will help save the floors. Ceiling tiles should be checked for leaks and replaced. Also, the replacement of windows in the school, what is the status.
- d. *Technology Update* – Dr. Du relayed to the FSC that classroom materials are starting to wear and there is a need for upgrades, i.e. Elmo's, projector lights, etc. Dr. Du and Dr. Caswell will develop a budget line for Technology updates.

## **8. New Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. *Home Schooling Requests* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the requests to home-school. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.  
Vote as follows:  
Mrs. Swanson – yes  
Ms. Pezza – yes  
Mr. Cervasio – no
- b. *Parent Involvement Policy>Foster Family Involvement Policy, #10000* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Parent Involvement Policy, now called Foster Family Involvement Policy, #10000, as presented with revisions. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- c. *Foster School Committee Meetings – Time change* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to change the current meeting time from 7:00 pm to 7:15 pm. Discussion followed. Ms. Pezza made a motion to add an amendment that the time change does not violate a Town ordinance. Mrs. Swanson revised the motion that the FSC won't make the time change if it's in violation of the Town ordinance. Ms. Pezza seconded. Discussion followed. The amendment passed. Vote = 2-1-0.  
Vote as follows:  
Mrs. Swanson – yes  
Ms. Pezza – yes  
Mr. Cervasio – no

And the vote on the original motion = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mr. Cervasio – no

## 9. Communication/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* – on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC accepted the resignation of Fran Stahlbush, fourth grade teacher, who will retire December 31, 2013, with regret. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- b. *Principal's Report*

- 1) Curriculum Changes
- 2) Science NECAP 2013
- 3) Evaluation Update

Mrs. Kristen Danusis, Principal, gave a presentation to the FSC on all the above topics and her outlook and plans for the future education of the students.

- c. *Superintendent's Report*

- 1) District Safety Meeting – Dr. Caswell updated the FSC on the revision of the School Safety Program. Chief of Police, police, fire department, school nurse, and building maintenance supervisor, Joe McGovern all had input. Dr. Caswell will set up a meeting with the pastor of the church to ask if the school needs off-site evacuation, if they can go to the church. The installation of new “fab” access to the playground door and the southeast access door, so doors will not need to be propped open.
- 2) PARCC Preparation – Dr. Caswell explained the PARCC, which is on-line testing that will begin next year, and feels the school is not prepared. She will be coming to the FSC with a proposal of how this will be budgeted for next year.

- d. *Future Agenda Items* –

- 1) SMCT information – packets only and write thank you
- 2) Window Replacement Update
- 3) Budget Workshops – schedule

- 10. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the **FSC voted to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers' Association.** Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson reported that Collective Bargaining and Litigation for the Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers' Association was discussed and no votes were taken.

On a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to “Seal” the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

11. **Adjournment** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to adjourn at 9:02 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
Secretary Foster School Committee